

Serial No.: 09/627,166

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For:

**METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING PELLETS FORM  
HEAVY HYDROCARBON LIQUID**



Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: M. Theisen

**ATTACHMENT B - CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for producing asphaltene pellets comprising:

a) flow means that supplies hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet;

b) pellet producing means that breaks up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit and produces pellets of asphaltene;

c) a reservoir or container that collects said pellets of asphaltene together with some fluid producing a slurry; and

d) transporting means that transports said slurry to the required location.

5. (Twice Amended) A method for producing asphaltene pellets comprising the steps of:

a) supplying hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet;

b) breaking up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium to produce pellets of asphaltene;

c) collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry; and

d) transporting said slurry to a required location.

9. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the

step of collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry is carried out by collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some liquid water producing a heavy hydrocarbon or asphaltene-water slurry.

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10. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein said step of breaking up the liquid stream of hot asphaltene flowing out of the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium so that pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced.

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11. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein the step of spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying liquid water.

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12. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 7 including grinding said asphaltene pellets and transporting the grinded asphaltene pellets to a location.

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